

SOUTHERN FARM NOTES.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE PLANTER, STOCKMAN AND TRUCK GROWER.

Asparagus in the South.

There is no crop grown by the Southern trucker that has paid better than asparagus year after year. With many of the other truck crops sent North the growers have to contend with a host of planters who rush in at times to plant certain crops like early potatoes, peas and beans, and whose inferior crops often glut the market.

But the asparagus crop is one into which the temporary growers cannot jump in and out of, for the crop requires special preparation of the soil, and patient waiting and culture pending the time for reaping a harvest, and the men who are always ready to jump into the annual crops always wish to realize at once.

Thus writes W. F. Massey in Professor Hexamer's treatise on asparagus culture. Our own repeated observations in the Jacksonville and St. Catherine markets have shown us that this delicious esculent can be grown in North Florida. The great secret in raising asparagus is the unstinted use of manure; we believe the lack of this explains the failures that have been reported in Lower Florida.

Professor Hexamer quotes Charles V. Mapes: "Asparagus requires very heavy manuring; and yet its composition would not indicate it. The explanation is found in the fact that it must grow very rapidly, otherwise it is tough, stringy and flavorless, the same as with radishes. If it had a long season to grow in, like timothy hay, it might grow successfully in very poor soil. A half ton of timothy hay contains about as much plant food, and in similar proportions, as 2000 bunches of asparagus or 5000 quarts of strawberries; and yet, while this quantity of hay will grow on an acre of almost any poor soil, the strawberries or asparagus for a fair crop require a rich garden soil. If the hay were obliged to make as rapid a growth as the asparagus, then it would also require rich soil."

"With the strawberry there is but the lapse of a few weeks from the time of blossoming to the full development of the fruit. The plants need a superabundance of plant food within easy reach; otherwise, the fruit is small and inferior. The plant cannot bear profitable fruit, and at the same time be compelled to struggle for existence."

"The same is the case with asparagus. Neither of these crops can take up out of the soil all the fertilizer that needs to be applied for their successful growth, and therefore there is necessarily a large quantity of plant food unused and left over in the soil."—Florida Agriculturist.

Prevents Switching of Cows' Tails.

The annoyance of having a cow's tail suddenly switching into one's face while milking may now be prevented by applying a small clip to the pestering member and securing it to one of the legs of the animal. This clip is the



CLIP FOR COW'S TAILS.

invention of David McLellan, and consists, as illustrated, of a section of spring wire bent to the shape of a pair of tongs. The arms of the clip are bowed out in semi-circular shape near their extremities, and the ends are formed into elliptical eyes. A ring encircles the straight portions of the arms, and may be pushed forward to squeeze the arms together. In applying this device the bushy part of the tail is slipped into the clip, which is then pressed firmly against the animal's leg with the eyes upon opposite sides. The ring is now pushed forward, forcing the spring arms together. The tail is thus tightly held between the leg and the semi-circular portions of the clip, which are rounded to prevent slipping. The semi-circular portions fit over the tendon of the leg near the upper shin joint, and the eye portions sink into the hollow between

the tendon and the bone. The device can be very quickly applied or removed, and will effectually prevent the undesirable switching of the animal's tail, thereby saving the milker from much annoyance and securing cleanliness of the milk.—Scientific American.

Culture of Game Birds.

Many people who have country homes are greatly interested in having about them wild fowls and birds of different kinds. This wish can be gratified if the people will be content with such manner of birds and fowls as can be partly tamed after being deprived of the use of their wings. Wild ducks, geese and pheasants can be deprived of the pinion or the point of their wings so that they cannot fly. When the pinion has been cut off they can be confined within low wire runs, and the young should be deprived of the wing point soon after they are hatched. These wire fences can be built out into small lakes. The wire cloth must extend down to the bottom of the water and above the surface, so as to keep the wild water-fowls from diving under or getting over the fence. For pheasants there should be a hood of the wire extending inward from the fence, for when the pheasants try to flutter out they go close to the fence and jump. If the hood extension is on the fence it throws them back and soon breaks them of the habit.

It is best to use hens or tame water-fowl to hatch the eggs of the wild ones, and use Cochlin Bantam hens for pheasant eggs. In this way they gradually become more tame and quiet each year until they are almost as tame as our domestic fowls. We have seen wild water-fowls so tame they would come close for food, but pheasants are always more or less timid and nervous; seldom will they become so tame as to allow you to get very close to them.—Feather.

Cow Pea Hay as a Feed.

In feeding value well cured cow pea hay is similar and about equal to alfalfa and red clover hay. Curing of cow pea hay requires especial care to avoid dropping of the leaves, which occurs if the vines are over-ripe when cut, or if in curing they are too long exposed to sunshine. We often cut just after the dew is off, turn the vines several hours before sunset and put them in windrows or cocks toward the middle of the next day. Hay caps are very useful in curing pea vines if the weather becomes unfavorable. The mixture of crab grass with pea vines aids in retaining the leaves. We have satisfactorily used German millet for the same purpose with the early varieties of cow peas, sowing one bushel of the latter and one peck of millet to the acre. As emphasizing the importance of retaining the leaves by curing pea vines partly in cocks, we give the following facts brought out in tests made at the Alabama Experiment Station with six varieties. The leaves average thirty per cent. of the weight of the thoroughly dry hay. The leaves contained twenty-two per cent. protein, against nine and twelve per cent. in the coarse and fine stems respectively, and 7.5 per cent. fat, or about four times the percentage found in the stems. In starchy material the leaves and stems were on a practical equality, containing twenty-one to thirty-three per cent. nitrogen-free extract. Cow pea hay resembles wheat bran in composition and in part can be substituted for it.—Alabama Experiment Station.

Tests For Protein.

The Delaware station has made tests of several kinds of hay to determine the protein content. From these tests the following conclusions are drawn:

Maximum crops of alfalfa of average tests yield 1200 pounds of protein per acre, equivalent to the amount contained in approximately one and one-half tons of cottonseed meal.

Maximum crops of cowpeas and maximum crops of crimson clover of average tests contain each not more than 725 pounds of protein per acre.

A crop of clover and one of peas may be grown and made into hay annually from the same acre of land.

Hence where alfalfa fails to thrive peas and clover may be found to be a profitable substitute.

A Partial Solution.

As I feel it a duty that farmers should try to help one another, I will offer what I consider, at least, a partial solution of the cotton question: It is this: Plant it as early as possible, get all you can out of it before frost, then just before frost hitch a mule to a sled with two bales on it, cut two rows at a time, rake it, put under shelter. Then you will have a fine lot of feed, not only for cattle, but mules and horses also. You will stop the top crop racket, can send the children on to school, will at least lessen the boll weevil evil, and have your land in shape to go to plowing.—C. A. Sublett.

WOMAN'S GENTLE NATURE CALLS FOR GENTLE TREATMENT

Delicately formed and gently reared, women will find, in all the seasons of their lives, as maidens, wives, or mothers, that the one simple, wholesome remedy which acts gently and pleasantly and naturally, and which may be used with truly beneficial effects, under any conditions, when the system needs a laxative, is—Syrup of Figs. It is well known to be a simple combination of the laxative and carminative principles of plants with pleasant aromatic liquids, which are agreeable and refreshing to the taste and acceptable to the system when its gentle cleansing is desired.

Many of the ills from which women suffer are of a transient nature and do not come from any organic trouble and it is pleasant to know that they yield so promptly to the beneficial effects of Syrup of Figs, but when anything more than a laxative is needed it is best to consult the family physician and to avoid the old-time cathartics and loudly advertised nostrums of the present day. When one needs only to remove the strain, the torpor, the congestion, or similar ills, which attend upon a constipated condition of the system, use the true and gentle remedy—Syrup of Figs—and enjoy freedom from the depression, the aches and pains, colds and headaches, which are due to inactivity of the bowels.

Only those who buy the genuine Syrup of Figs can hope to get its beneficial effects and as a guarantee of the excellence of the remedy the full name of the company—California Fig Syrup Co.—is printed on the front of every package and without it any preparation offered as Syrup of Figs is fraudulent and should be declined. To those who know the quality of this excellent laxative, the offer of any substitute, when Syrup of Figs is called for, is always resented by a transfer of patronage to some first-class drug establishment, where they do not recommend, nor sell false brands, nor imitation remedies. The genuine article may be bought of all reliable druggists everywhere at 50 cents per bottle.

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A DEDUCTION.

"If life began at the north pole, as our eminent brother asserts," said the first scientist, "what conclusion would you draw from that? What effect has that had on our everyday life?"

"Why," hazarded the second scientist, "doesn't it show that what we have hitherto considered the pole-seeking craze is merely an instinctive manifestation of homesickness?"—Judge.

Agie—How are you spending your time nowadays, Bertie?
Bertie—Oh, as usual—thinking up some way to spend it.—Chicago News.

PROPER ANTIDOTE.

Nurse (excitedly)—Oh, doctor, I have just given the patient a teaspoonful of ink by mistake. What shall I do?

Doctor (calmly)—Give him a blotter to eat right away.—Chicago News.

COMPRESSED-AIR POWER.

"Say!" the man who had never before attended a concert remarked as the cornet soloist began his number, "who's the feller wavin' the little stick?"

"Sh!" replied his neighbor, "that's the conductor of music."

"Oh! and is the feller with the horn the motorman?"—Philadelphia Press.

TOO TRUE.

Tom—"How would you analyze obstinacy?"

Jerry—"Well, in the clearest definition—obstinacy is noiseless self-conceit."—Detroit Free Press.

SUBORDINATE.

Mr. Byrnie Coyne—Ah, sweetest one, may I be your captain and guide your bark down the sea of life?

Mrs. Berymore (a widow)—No, but you can be my second mate.—Detroit Free Press.

THE BURGLAR'S LAMENT.

Missionary—I hope that you will watch yourself hereafter.

Red Larry—You kin just betcher life I will. If I had been doin' the watchin', instead of the other feller, it's me wot would have got away instead of him.—Sing Sing Star of Hope.

CRITICIZING HIS OWN.

"But, my dear husband, it really is unjust of you to abuse mother-in-law so. There are good ones."

"Well, well, never mind. I haven't said anything against yours; it's only mine I'm grumbling about."—Boston Traveller.

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WEST HAVEN, CONN.—Eight months ago I took a severe pain in my back. The sample box of Doan's Kidney Pills helped me so much I purchased two boxes; am on my second box. My back does not bother me as it used to and I feel well.—SARAH E. BRADLEY, No. 377 Elm Street, West Haven, Conn.

HOUSTON, TEX.—I took the sample of Doan's Kidney Pills with such great benefit I bought a box at our druggist's. Used over half and stopped, because my urine which before had only come dribbling, now became so free. I had medicine enough. I had lumbar and the pills rid me of it. I should have written sooner, but you know how soon a well person forgets about being sick.—Mr. C. H. HOENCKEL, No. 2319 McKenny Ave., Houston, Tex.

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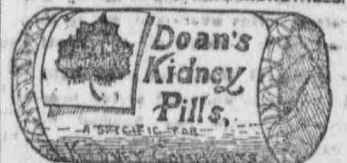
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